WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

A method of recognizing chirographs input into a computer system, comprising the steps of:

providing a primary recognizer for converting chirographs to shape indexes;

providing a plurality of secondary recognizers to convert chirographs into code points, and associating the secondary recognizers with at least some of the shape indexes, each secondary recognizer capable of overriding a shape index provided by the primary recognizer;

receiving a chirograph;

providing the chirograph to the primary recognizer and receiving a shape index therefrom;

determining whether one of the secondary recognizers is associated with the shape index, and if so, selecting that secondary recognizer as a selected secondary recognizer; and

passing the chirograph to the selected secondary recognizer and returning a code point from the secondary recognizer.